

## Abstract

## Progressive licensing of component-based MES software

5 The invention relates to a system (1), a method, and a standard framework  
(11) for usage-dependent licensing. When use is made of additional  
functionality, further instances, or specific adapters (13<sub>1..n</sub>), the  
system (1) will detect whether such use has been authorized by means of a  
license. If authorization has not yet taken place, a time-limited license  
10 will be generated automatically and the manufacturer (21) of the standard  
framework (11) or, as the case may be, a user (22p) who has implemented  
additional functionality on the basis of the framework will be informed  
and can generate a license key. The system (1) will disable the  
functionality after a specific period of time if a license fee is not  
15 paid by a user (22p, 22s).

FIG 3